

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a cinematographic system for creation of a film and/or video productions wherein the action figures are puppets controlled by rods, manipulated by puppeteers, on a virtual production set, the improvement comprising:

- A. A key-colored background screen;
- B. A production set prop wherein at least a portion of said set prop is key-colored to said background screen, wherein said set prop is positioned between a puppet and its puppeteers;
- C. Means for reproducing, by cinematographic techniques, against the background of the key-color screen, a real/action image, or a film sequence of real/action images, of a puppet that is manipulated by a plurality of puppeteers, said puppeteers being clothed in a material which is also key-colored to said background screen;
- D. Means for real time compositing said real/action image and a virtual image of said key-colored set prop either alone or in combination with a virtual of a background; and
- E. Means for display of said composited image.

2. In a method for the production of an action cinematographic composition wherein the action figures are puppets controlled by rods, manipulated by puppeteers, on a virtual production set, the improvement comprising:

- A. Providing
 - (1). A key-colored background screen;

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- (2). A production set prop wherein at least a portion of said set prop is key-colored to said background screen wherein said set prop is positioned between a puppet and its puppeteers;;
- (3). Means for reproducing, by cinematographic techniques, against the background of the key-color screen, a real/action image, or a film sequence of real/action images, of a puppet that is manipulated by a plurality of puppeteers, said puppeteers being clothed in a material which is also key-colored to said background screen;
- 10 (4). Means for real time compositing said real/action image and a virtual image of said key-colored set prop either alone or in combination with a virtual of a background; and
- (5). Means for display of said composited image.

15 B. Combining, in real-time, each of said real/action image and each of said virtual images so as to form a composite of said real/action image and said virtual images;

C. Displaying said composite image

3. In an cinematographic composition wherein the action figures are puppets controlled by rods, manipulated by puppeteers, on a virtual production set, the improvement comprising:

A cinematographic image composite comprising a real/action image recorded against a key-colored background screen, and at least one virtual image wherein said virtual image is selected from the group consisting of a production set prop, a component of a production set prop or a background scene for said real/action image.

4. The improved cinematographic composition of Claim 3, wherein said real/action image comprises a puppet manipulated by puppeteers key-colored to said key-colored background screen of said virtual production set.

5. The improved cinematographic composition of Claim 3, wherein said real/action image comprises a puppet manipulated by puppeteers key-colored to said key-colored background screen of said virtual production set, and said production set props are located within said production set between said puppeteers and said puppet.